



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 7, 2005  
Week Ending: November 6, 2005  
CWP WA-CW4505

## Rain Continued Apple Harvest Came to an End

### Field Crops

Crops, fall pastures, rangeland, and moisture conditions benefitted from the significant rainfall throughout the state, but delayed corn and potato harvests. Storms, frosts, and hard freezes were reported in some areas. Some growers have not finished seeding for winter wheat. Fieldwork was winding down with the exception of Christmas tree growers who began harvest of Noble fir in mid-week.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 5% poor, 38% fair, 51% good, and 2% excellent. Calves continued being weaned and moved to market.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Apple harvest came to an end for many producers. U-Pick pumpkin season also ended. Raspberry producers trimmed and tied canes whenever weather permitted.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	2.0
Last Week	4.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	14	56	24
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	39	50	2
Subsoil	17	32	38	13
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	50	38	0
Irrigation Water	5	6	88	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	5	9	80	6

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	99	97	100	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	90	72	93	95
Potatoes Harvested	94	92	99	99
Corn Harvested for Grain	55	48	68	52

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	3	41	42	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	46	43
Corn	0	0	3	45	52

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Copious amounts of rainfall and windy conditions limited agricultural activities to inside chores for most ag producers. The exception were the Christmas tree growers. Christmas tree growers began harvesting Noble fir in mid-week. The rainy conditions made harvest a far greater challenge, as growers tried to prevent trucks and tree balers from getting stuck in soggy fields. Although parts of the county received a killing frost at the end of September, the majority of the county has not experienced below freezing temperatures. Dahlia growers were forced to cut down actively growing plants in order to begin digging tubers. Home gardeners were kept busy raking leaves.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Steady rains and mild weather greened up pastures and made dirt roads muddy for the Christmas tree harvest—meaning fall is right on schedule. Early snow in the mountains was a welcome sight after last year's drought.

**Mason:** Over seven inches of rain fell during the week, accompanied by lots of wind and thunderstorms. Producers went outside just to feed livestock and caught up on inside activities. Temperatures were in the high 30's to lower 50's all week.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain, rain, and more rain! With well over five inches received during the week, days suitable for fieldwork were at a premium. When possible, producers were getting things ready for winter. It was the last week for U-Pick pumpkins, as the focus is switching to Christmas trees. Most local CSA's have ended, and there were lots of winter squash, onions, and carrots on local dinner tables. No flooding was reported, but many streams and creeks were getting close.

**Pierce/South King:** The rains in the area made it hard for crop producers to get into their fields. Most of the corn in the

South Puget Sound area has been harvested. Producers with corn still in the fields will have to wait until the ground dries out before they can harvest it. There were no unusual situations to report and no crop damage due to a weather event.

**Snohomish/King:** Rain fell nearly every day during the week. Accumulations of 5+ inches were received in some areas. Pastures were soggy, and cooler weather slowed growth. The apple harvest was winding down. Unharvested pumpkins remained in fields. Christmas tree growers geared up for their busy season.

**Thurston:** Daily rainfall prevented most agricultural activities with the exception of Christmas tree growers, who began cutting trees mid-week. Ag producers were becoming impatient with the daily rainfall which had local rivers and streams full. There have been no reports of flooding other than surface water lakes on turf farms. Many areas of the county have not yet received a killing frost. Home gardeners raked leaves and built compost piles.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was very wet all week. Producers were feeding cattle haylage bales in the dark, both morning and evening. The rodent problem under the haylage persists and almost all of the round wrapped bales have been penetrated. Fortunately, the rot has not been extensive, but it certainly affects the quality.

**Whatcom:** Rains continued in the final week of October, adding an additional inch of precipitation to the previous 3.65 inches. The rain lightened somewhat during the middle of the week to allow raspberry producers to trim and tie canes, but field tractors remained parked. The first frost of the season came on Thursday.

## Central

**Chelan/Douglas:** Three to five inches of snow and one to two inches of rain was received during the week. Livestock were still in fall pastures. Apple harvest was complete. Winter wheat condition was below normal for this time of the year in some areas.

**Kittitas:** Several good frosts, a couple of decent rains, and significant snowfall at the higher elevations made the week a welcome, promising start to winter. Pastures began to look cleaned off. Some ranchers fired up the tractor with the hay fork, and hay growers slowed down for the off-season.

**Klickitat:** Significant and overdue rainfall received during the week should benefit fall pastures and rangeland. Streams

and waterways were desperately in need of the precipitation.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** About one inch of precipitation was received during the week. The higher elevations received snow. The pasture conditions remained adequate, but livestock water was still low due to the low water table. Apple harvest was complete.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from five degrees below normal to eight degrees above normal, with 1.14 inches of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Rain was received on and off throughout the week. Small storms pushed through about every other day, keeping corn grain harvesters on the sidelines. Most other harvest activities were completed and farmers settled into off-season chores.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The area received substantial rain early in the week, followed by showery conditions throughout the week. The moisture was very welcomed, as the entire area was suffering severe drought conditions. The rain should help sprout the rest of the winter wheat that was seeded. The concern was that wheat will emerge with winter annual grasses such as cheatgrass and goat grass, as there was not an opportunity for these grasses to sprout prior to seeding winter wheat. The rain should also benefit rangelands, but the benefit will be minor since the rains came so late in the growing season.

**Lincoln:** Downy brome and goat grass have emerged in the winter wheat fields. Local spraying with Olympus and Maverick was ongoing, weather permitting.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature was 48 and the low temperature was 28 degrees. Rain, snow, and hail were received during the week. There was no farm activity due to the weather.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The first hard freeze of the season occurred during the week. Rain and some snow were received during the week. Fieldwork was winding down. Cattle were grazing on pasture but looking to head home to the winter range.

**Stevens:** Pastures were growing very slowly.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cattle producers spent the last few weeks gathering cows and calves from summer pastures. Calves continued moving to market with good prices. Winter wheat benefitted from the recent rains.

**Walla Walla:** The area received good rainfall during the week. Crops were showing improvement due to the much needed rain. Winter wheat that was up looked pretty good. Some area farmers have not completed fall seeding, but most have.

**Whitman:** Wet weather continued. Range and pasture conditions continued to improve.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A very cool, rainy week welcomed fall to the Palouse. Most field operations were completed, but a few producers found themselves caught when rains brought fieldwork to a halt.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

## November 7, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	40	53	46	0	0	-7	0	0	2.01	0.95	7	7.71	1.45	123	34
Everett	40	53	46	-2	0	-7	0	0	2.90	1.91	6	6.16	0.07	101	32
Hoquiam	41	56	48	-2	3	-11	0	0	7.29	5.22	7	14.35	3.11	128	37
Kelso	41	56	49	2	3	-4	0	0	4.63	3.33	6	8.78	1.48	120	29
Olympia	40	55	47	2	3	3	0	0	5.86	4.27	7	11.20	3.25	141	36
Sea-Tac	41	54	47	-2	1	-6	0	0	2.17	1.02	4	4.76	-1.35	78	28
Shelton	35	57	45	-3	3	-4	0	0	7.13	5.11	7	13.97	4.06	141	34
Tacoma	41	55	47	0	1	-6	0	0	4.03	2.84	7	7.35	1.11	118	27
Vancouver	41	58	50	3	6	-1	0	0	3.90	2.78	6	7.60	1.46	124	30
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	30	53	42	2	0	0	0	0	1.75	1.54	6	2.27	1.04	185	13
Stampede Pass	30	43	35	2	0	0	0	0	7.23	4.86	7	17.77	5.79	148	34
Wenatchee	31	57	42	-2	0	-2	0	0	1.36	1.15	5	1.71	0.68	166	12
Yakima AP	26	58	42	-2	1	-2	0	0	1.31	1.13	6	1.79	0.76	174	14
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	31	52	40	2	0	0	0	0	1.44	0.96	6	2.88	0.08	103	18
Deer Park	28	50	39	-1	0	0	0	0	1.79	1.33	6	3.75	1.37	158	23
Spokane AP	31	51	40	1	0	0	0	0	1.28	0.89	6	2.89	0.83	140	19
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	30	58	41	-3	0	-7	0	0	1.10	0.92	5	2.22	1.26	231	14
Moses Lake	32	58	43	0	0	-7	0	0	0.62	0.44	4	1.85	0.89	193	13
Quincy	30	59	42	0	0	0	0	0	1.20	0.99	5	2.11	1.02	194	13
Ritzville	30	51	41	-2	0	0	0	0	0.95	0.66	6	2.39	0.78	148	17
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	31	63	46	-3	4	-10	0	0	0.28	0.11	4	0.58	-0.32	64	8
Pasco	38	59	49	3	6	-3	0	0	0.44	0.23	5	1.60	0.53	150	13
Pullman	34	60	43	2	3	0	0	0	0.61	0.09	5	1.31	-1.56	46	15
Whitman Miss.	33	66	48	4	5	-2	0	0	0.62	0.26	6	1.87	-0.15	93	22
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	52	41	-3	0	-4	0	0	0.53	-0.09	5	1.76	-1.58	53	16
Lewiston ID	39	58	48	3	1	-6	0	0	0.65	0.43	3	1.98	0.11	106	13

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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